Oil Selection Boards

879. SHRI VITHALBHAI MOTIRAM PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently received complaints regarding the functioning of Oil Selection in Boards in different parts of the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a number of Members of Parliament have requested the Government to reconstitute the Oil Selection Boards; and

(c) if so, what are the details of Government's decision taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA): (a) and (b) Complaints about the functioning of the Oil Selection Boards have been made by members of the Consultative Committee. At the same forum, suggestions for re-constitution of the Boards were made.

(c) There are at present four Oil Selection Boards in the country, each headed by a Retired High Court Judge as its Chairman and a retired Civil Servant as its member. There is no proposal for reconstitution of these Boards.

Survey for gas exploitation

880. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have carried out any surveys during the last three years for exploitation of the Gas resources in the country;

(b) what are the details of the areas identified in this regard, Statewise, in the country; and

(c) the areas out of those on which work has already started for commercial exploitation of gas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA): (a) Surveys have been undertaken for oil and gas in the last three years.

(b) The natural gas (associated and free) has been discovered in the following areas:—

Gujarat
Rajasthan
Assam
Nagaland
Tripura
Andhra Pradesh
Tamil Nadu
Arunachal Pradesh
Andaman

Offshore areas of West and East Coast

(c) The production of natural gas has already commenced in Gujarat, Assam and Bombay Offshore.

Import of LPG cylinders

881. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of countries from which the LPG cylinders were imported since 1982; and

(b) whether it is a fact that a few industrial units in the country had offered to supply the cylinders and if so, the reasons for which they were ignored by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA): (a) Brazil.

(b) A three-year contract for supplies of LPG cylinder after 1-4-1983 was finalised by the oil industry in early 1983 after inviting tenders from indigenous manufacturers.

Coal gas and Byproducts factory in Dankuni

882. SHRI RAMKRISHNA MAZUMDER: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Coal Gas and Byproduct Factory in Dan-

kuni (West Bengal) has not been completed in time;

(b) if so, the reasons for the same;

(c) by when it is likely to be completed; and

(d) what will be the extra expenditure due to delay in its completion?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The project got delayd due to initial difficulties in the acquisition of land, import of technology, completion of massive land filling work, delay in finalisation of orders for compressors due to import restrictions etc. The project is already in an advanced stage of construction and is likely to be commissioned by March, 1987. The project was sanctioned in 1980 with the total cost estimate of Rs. 49.27 crores. Escalation in cost due to delay is being assessed.

Donation to political parties by public units

883. SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the public units have been giving donations to political parties and whether sometimes they are in the form of advertisements in souvenirs of these parties; if so, the total amount so given in each of the last three years and in the current year and to which party;

(b) what are Government's latest guidelines in this regard; and

(c) what are the details of the Election Commission's recommendations regarding political donations by public undertakings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) As per available information public sector units are not giving donations to political parties.

(b) Pubic Sector Units are statutorily prohibited from making any contributions to political parties under the Companies Act.

(c) Election Commission had recommended the removal of total ban on such contributions by Companies in the private sector while retaining the ban of such donations by public sector units. While amending the Companies Act in May, 1985 the prohibition on donations to political parties by public units was continued.

Booking of vehicles

884. SHRI LAL K. ADVANI:
SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether deposits have been recently raised by manufacturers of Fiat, Maruti and Bajaj Scooters against advance booking of vehicles;

(b) if so, the total number of bookings, dealer-wise|centre-wise for each type of vehicle and total amount of money so collected by each company so far;

(c) the manner in which the three companies have drawn up priority lists for allotment of vehicles;

(d) the total mumber of vehicles of each model scheduled to be produced during 1985-86; 1986-87 and 1987-88; and

(e) the total current licenced capacity of each of these Companies for these vehicles and their actual production during 1984-85 of each model type of vehicle?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement (Statement-I) is enclosed.

(c) All the three companies have determined priority lists by psuedo random generation technique on the computer.

(d) and (e) A statement (Statement-II) is enclosed.